

Fish Restoration Program Agreement

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Background

The Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA) is a 2010 agreement between two California agencies – the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The FRPA addresses habitat restoration requirements imposed by a number of federal and state agencies, including:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's and the National Marine Fisheries Service's evaluations of the impacts on threatened and endangered species that result from the operations of the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project (Biological Opinions)
- The California Department of Fish and Game's habitat requirements for the Longfin Smelt Incidental Take Permit for State Water Project Delta operations
- The U.S. Endangered Species Act habitat protection provisions for endangered and threatened species, of which there are a number in the Delta

The state and federal water projects supply water to three million acres of irrigated agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Basin and to 25 million Californians in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Central Coast and Southern California.

Purpose

The primary FRPA obligation is to restore to a wetlands condition 8,000 acres of intertidal and subtidal habitat in the Delta and Suisun Marsh. This includes 800 acres of low-salinity-zone areas of the estuary made up of the Suisun Marsh and the westernmost part of the Delta. The FRPA also includes a number of actions to benefit winter-run and spring-run salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and other native fish species.

The focus of these restoration efforts will be in the Delta, Suisun Marsh and Yolo Bypass (see map). These efforts will take place on existing publicly owned lands, on land acquired from willing sellers and through coordination with existing restoration efforts of other public agencies.

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Relation to Other Major Delta Conservation Efforts

In addition to the habitat restoration efforts taking place under the FRPA, there are a number of other Delta and Suisun Marsh restoration and planning efforts underway with which the FRPA program will coordinate. Among these are:

- Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
- Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan
- Ecosystem Restoration Program Stage 2 Conservation Strategy
- Delta Native Species Recovery Plan
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Interim Strategic Plan

DWR and DFG will work within these and other planning efforts to facilitate the implementation of the habitat restoration components of these programs where appropriate. The Delta Plan and BDCP both include discussions and processes that describe how agencies can ensure consistency in the planning and implementation of habitat restoration projects.

For More Information

- Visit the FRPA website:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/frpa.cfm>
- On the FRPA website, view the FRPA Implementation Strategy under Other Associated Documents

Habitat Restoration for the Delta



PLANNED AND POTENTIAL FRPA HABITAT PROJECTS IN THE SACRAMENTO – SAN JOAQUIN DELTA AND SUISUN MARSH

